Special package for Bihar

†1051. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarred Question 1013 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th November, 2002 and state the scheme for development of Bihar in the Tenth Five Year Plan after partition of Bihar and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): After the bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Bihar, the Central Government decided that the development of Bihar needed focused attention. Therefore, in addition to the normal flow of funds under various schemes during the Tenth Plan, it was decided to fund the Special Plan for Bihar under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana using innovative delivery systems so that prevailing bottlenecks in identified sectors could be overcome and basic infrastructure provided for the future development of the State. The High Level Committee on the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has approved the major thrust areas of the Special Plan to fill critical gaps such as power, irrigation, roads, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation etc. The Million Shallow Tubewell Programme, funded through Additional Central Assistance, is already under implementation in the State and has been reviewed to ensure time bound progress. The Empowered Committee has cleared the project. 'Strengthening of the Sub Transmission System' in the State with an allocation of Rs. 365 crore under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

BIMARU States

1052. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while Madhya Pradesh continues to figure amongst the four States termed as BIMARU, it tops the list of developed States according to a recent report prepared by the Planning Commission at the behest of the UNDP-" Successful Governance Initiatives and best Practices-Experiences from Indian State";

(b) whether it is also a fact that Rajasthan, another State comprising BIMARU, is not far behind in the said list of developed States; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what criteria have been followed in gradation of the States in terms of development by the Planning Commission; and whether Government have considered the question of recasting the BIMARU States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The term BIMARU is not an official nomenclature. It only refers to the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The report "Successful Governance Initiatives and Best Practices-Experiences from Indian States" prepared by the Planning Commission in collaboration with the Human Development Resource Centre, United Nations Development Programme has not categorized the States as developed or otherwise.

Growth rate for Tenth Plan

1053. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate targeted and achieved during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the growth rate targeted for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) how Government propose to achieve this growth rate; and

(d) whether the targeted growth rate is realistic in view of resource constraints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Based on the latest estimates available from the Central Statistical Organisation, the rate of growth (measured in terms of GDP at Factor Cost) during the Ninth Five Year Plan works out to 5.5 per cent, as against a target of 6.5 per cent.

(b) The target growth rate for the Tenth Five Year Plan is 8 per cent per annum.

(c) and (d) The targeted growth rate can be achieved, *inter-alia*, by larger investment in infrastructure and social sectors, improving allocative efficiency of resources, carrying out policy reforms in order to create investor friendly environment and enhancing efficiency of delivery system.